

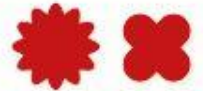


NO PATENTS ON SEEDS!

Online workshop



Future Regulation of
NGT Plants and Seed
Patents: Time to Take
the Right Decisions



10 June 2026



Stop patents on traditional plant breeding

Time for the EU to take the right decisions

10 June 2026, Online workshop

<https://www.no-patents-on-seeds.org/en/NGT-Workshop>

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European patents on classical breeding

between 2009 to 2024:

- around 1.500 **patent applications** on classical breeding
- around 340 patents on classical breeding **granted** by the European Patent Office

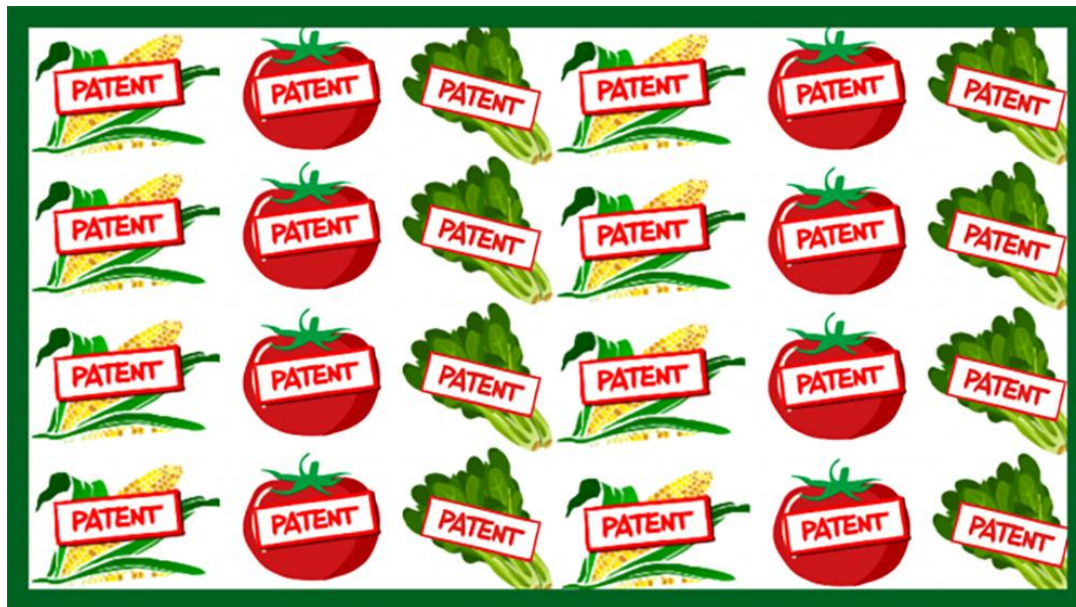
Pinto database by European Seed Association:

- lists 100 European patents on classical breeding affecting more than 1.000 plant varieties belonging to almost 40 species



Patents granted in 2025 on plants derived from classical breeding

In 2025, the European Patent Office (EPO) granted around 40 patents that are derived from classical breeding.





Legal background - EU

EU Biotech Directive 98/44/EC

„plant and animal varieties“ and „essentially biological processes for the production of plants and animals“ are excluded from patentability (Art. 4)

„A process for the production of plants or animals is essentially biological if it consists entirely of natural phenomena such as crossing or selection.“ (Art. 2)

<https://www.no-patents-on-seeds.org/en/background/legal-framework>

<https://www.no-patents-on-seeds.org/en/background/documents>





Legal background - EPO

European Patent Convention, Article 53 (b)

European patents shall not be granted in respect of: [...] (b) plant or animal varieties or essentially biological processes for the production of plants or animals.

Implementing Regulations, Rule 26 (5)

A process for the production of plants or animals is essentially biological if it consists entirely of natural phenomena such as crossing or selection.

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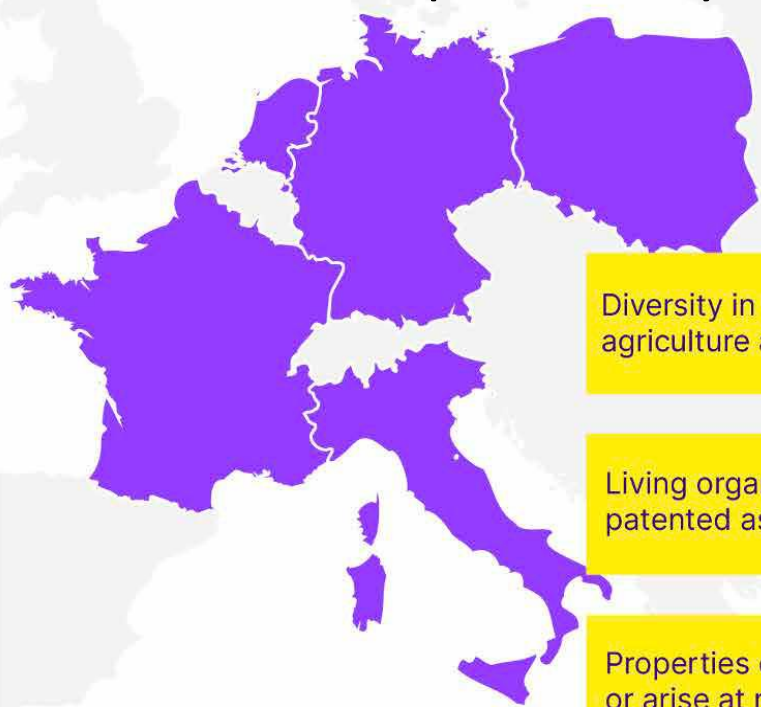
Consequences of patents on classical plant breeding

- Patents hinder or even **block access to biological diversity** that is essential for plant breeding to produce plant varieties that are **disease-resistant or adapted to climate change**. Small and medium-sized breeding companies are negatively affected even if they do not apply genetic engineering.
- Farmers will have less choice in which varieties to buy and license fees could also impact **food prices**. Beyond that, our **food security** is put at risk.



EU citizens say 'no' to patents on seeds

- Survey conducted in DE / FR / IT / NL / PL
- 80 percent say **NO** to patents on seeds



Diversity in plant breeding is important for agriculture and our food supply.

93 % agree

Living organisms (plants and animals) may not be patented as technical inventions for ethical reasons.

83 % agree

Properties of plants that occur naturally or arise at random may not be patented.

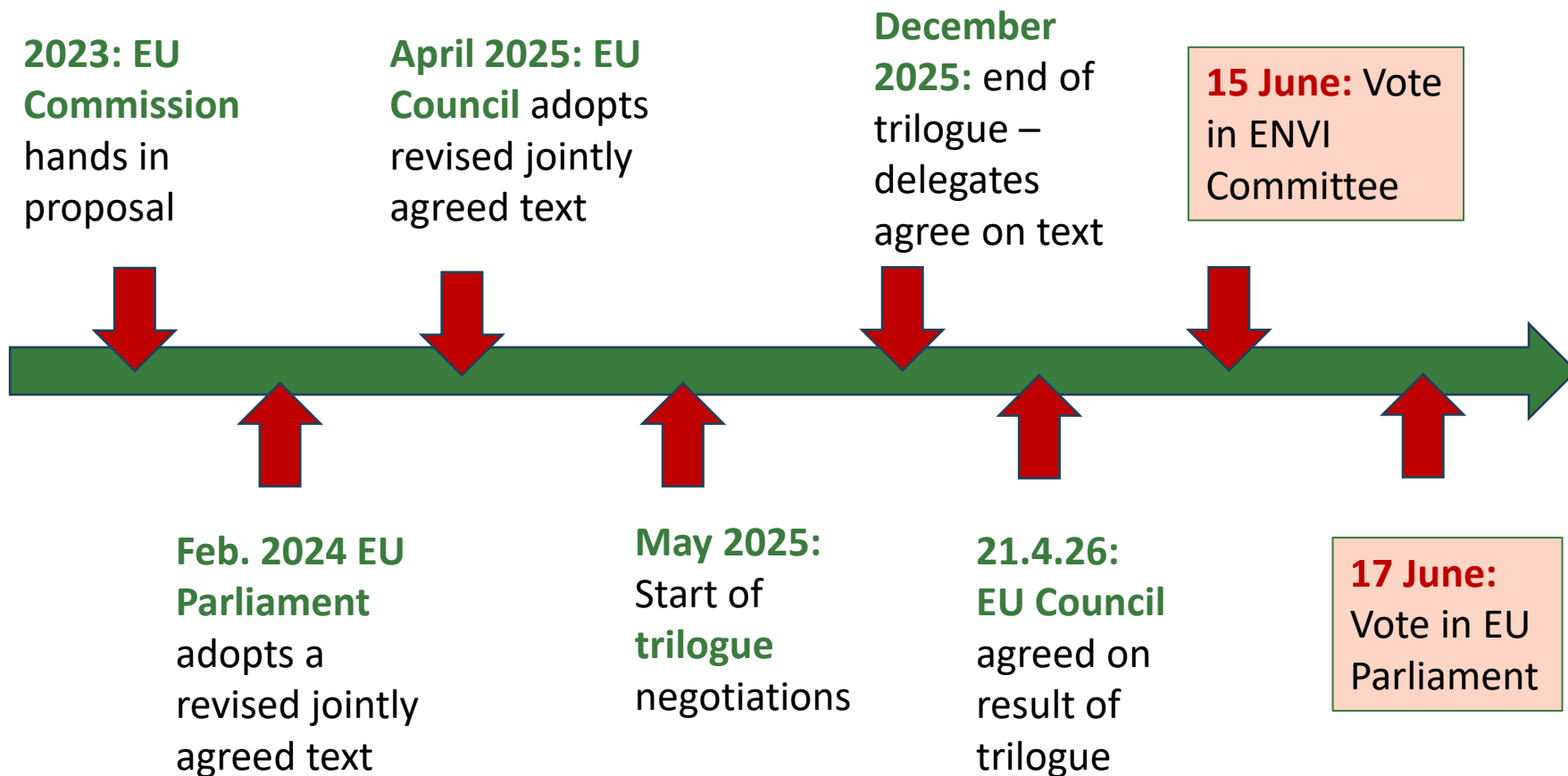
75 % agree

When granting patents on genetically modified plants and approving them for the market, particular consideration must be given to protecting humans and the environment.

88 % agree



Negotiations NGT deregulation





The chance for the EU Parliament

- The European Parliament has the chance to **end the ongoing monopolisation of seeds** in their vote on the NGT regulation that is planned for June.
- If the current text is adopted, **NGTs** will become a **main driver for an increasing number of seed patents**. These patents cover both, genetically engineered plants as well as traditional breeding.
- If this problem is not solved by the new regulation, it should be rejected.



Further information

NO PATENTS ON SEEDS!

PATENTS CAUSE MONOPOLIZATION IN CONVENTIONAL PLANT BREEDING

ALARMING TREND IN THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATIONS FILED FOR NATIVE GENE VARIANTS

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NO PATENTS ON SEEDS!

European Patent Office versus the EU

Despite prohibitions:
Patents continue to be granted on natural genes and plants selected for breeding

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Thank you!

